

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 INR-10 PC-10 USIA-15

IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 SWF-02 FDRE-00

DRC-01 RSC-01 L-03 IGA-02 FEA-02 ACDA-19 SCI-06

( ISO ) W

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P R 241522Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8831

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

EC BRUSSELS 157

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AFDROUGHT

EC BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN; PARIS FOR HELMAN; ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS IN MALI

REF: STTTE 070797; STATE 074267

1. HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH DOUKARA APRIL 23 ON THE  
PROBLEMS SET FORTH REFTELS. DOUKARA GAVE HIS TRUCK  
ALLOCATION AS FOLLOWS:

A) 40-45 ALL-SURFACE TRUCKS OPERATING OUT OF GOA

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(6TH REGION) FOR DISTRIBUTION DROUGHT SUPPLIES,

INCLUDING 25 ZIL TRUCKS (BAMAKO 0976). (AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THERE ARE 29 REFUGEE ENCAMPMENTS IN 6TH REGION, SPREAD FROM TESSALIT TO KIDAL TO MENAKA TO GOUNDAM.)

B) 25 ALL-SURFACE TRUCKS PLYING THE MOPTI-GAO ROUTE.

C) 15 ALL-SURFACE TRUCKS OPERATING OUT OF MOPTI FOR DISTRIBUTION DROUGHT SUPPLIES IN MOPTI AREA (5TH REGION).

D) 18 SEMI-TRAILERS AND 25 ALL-SURFACE TRUCKS OPERATING NORTH OF BAMAKO, DIENI, DIEMA, BANAMBA, NARA.

E) 10 TO 12 ALL-SURFACE TRUCKS PLUS 25 ORDINARY, NOT ALL-SURFACE ZIL TRUCKS OPERATING IN THE KAYES AREA.

F) OF THE 36 DESOTOS DELIVERED 8 ARE OUT OF OPERATION BECAUSE OF ACCIDENTS AND NECESSITY TO CANNIBALIZE FOR SPARE PARTS. DOUKARA COMMENTED THAT ALL HIS TRUCKS WERE OPERATING DAY AND NIGHT AND THE ATTRITION RATE WAS VERY HEAVY. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING SPARE PARTS AND SAID THAT IF THERE WERE AN ACCIDENT THAT TRUCK WAS OUT OF OPERATION.

2. I RAISED WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF THE 45 TRUCKS LEASED BY CMTR MENTIONED REFTTEL A. HE SAID, WHICH EMBASSY HAS INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED, THAT THESE WERE SEMI-TRAILERS WHICH COULD NOT BE USED IN THE 6TH REGION OR ANY PLACE ELSE WHERE THE ROADS WERE BAD. (SAME IS TRUE OF CFDT TRUCKS.)

3. DISCUSSING THE CONDITION OF THE ROADS, DOUKARA SAID THAT THE STRETCH BETWEEN DIEMA AND DIENI, ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 150 KILOMETERS, TOOK 13 HOURS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE CONVOYS WERE SLOWED DOWN BY LACK OF FUEL. HE NOTED THAT MALI IS SUPPLIED FROM DAKAR AND ABIDJAN AND THERE ARE FREQUENT INTERRUPTIONS IN THE SUPPLY OF FUEL EFFECTIVELY STOPPING THE CONVOYS FROM OPERATING. THE FUEL SHORTAGE WAS EXACERBATED BY THE EXTREMELY HIGH FUEL CONSUMPTION OF HIS TRUCKS, WHICH AT TIMES REACHED 100 LITERS PER 100 KMS.

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4. IN ADDITION, DOUKARA SAID, THE DROUGHT HAS SPREAD THIS YEAR. WHEREAS LAST YEAR THE GOM CONSIDERED THE LIMIT OF THE DROUGHT AREA TO BE THE 14TH PARALLEL (LATITUDE 14 DEGREE N), THIS YEAR HE HAS BEEN FORCED TO SUPPLY AN ADDITIONAL SALIENT RUNNING FROM YOROSSO AS FAR SOUTH AS SIKASSO AND THEN RUNNING NORTHWEST TO BAMAKO AND BACK TO THE 14TH PARALLEL.

5. OTHER, NOT ALL-SURFACE TRUCKS, HAVE BEEN REQUISITIONED TO SHIP THE PEANUT CROP FROM KITA TO KOULIKORO. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME 10,000 TONS OF PEANUTS IN THE OPEN AIR THAT HAD TO BE MOVED.

6. FINALLY, HE SAID GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO MALI SIMPLY HAD NOT MOVED FAST ENOUGH TO PERMIT HIM TO GET THE GRAIN MOVED INTO POSITION IN THE 6TH REGION. HE SAID WE ONLY HAD A MONTH TO A MONTH AND A HALF UNTIL THE RAINY SEASON STARTS AND THE ARRIVALS OF GRAIN WERE NOW BEHIND SCHEDULE. THIS COMBINED WITH GASOLINE SHORTAGE MADE IN HIS VIEW AN AIRLIFT ALMOST INEVITABLE.

7. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE USE OF ALTERNATE ROUTES. HE SAID THAT HE IS ALREADY SUPPLYING TIMBUKTU THROUGH THE SEGOU-NIONO-NIAFUNKE-GOUNDAM-TIMBUKTU ROUTE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, SUPPLYING GAO FROM TIMBUKTU WAS TOTALLY IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE OF THE STATE OF THE TIMBUKTU-GAO ROUTE, A JUDGMENT SHARED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO RECENTLY TRAVELED THE AREA. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, HE SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TRUCKS TO DIVERT TO THAT ROUTE EVEN IF THE ROUTE WAS PASSABLE. HE FURTHER SAID THAT THE ROUTE BETWEEN NIAFUNKE AND GOUNDAM BECAME IMPASSABLE WITH THE FIRST RAIN. AGAIN, OBSERVATIONS BY EMBASSY OFFICERS SUPPORT THIS JUDGMENT.

8. WITH RESPECT TO THE COTONOU-GAO ROUTE, DOUKARA SAID THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION WHATSOEVER TO A TRIAL SHIPMENT. HE SAID THAT AFTER MY PREVIOUS VISIT WITH HIM (BAMAKO 0790) HE HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF MAKPE DEMARCHES TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENTS OF DAHOMEY AND NIGER AT A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND THAT HE HAD THEN MADE SUCH DEMARCHES TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS. HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF DAHOMEY, AND AFTER THE DEMARCHE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER, THE COUP D'ETAT TOOK PLACE. AT THE PRESENT TIME, HE SAID, THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN MALI AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF NIGER WAS SO UNCERTAIN THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY PROMISES ABOUT A DEMARCHE AT THIS TIME, BUT HE WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE COMMENTED HE SUSPECTED THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GON WERE IN SIMILAR STATE.

9. I ASKED HIM IF HE FORESAW ANY PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO CUSTOMS, TAXES, SECURITY AND THE LIKE. HE SAID THAT THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE NO PROBLEMS ON ANY OF THOSE

QUESTIONS FROM THE MALIAN SIDE SINCE HE WOULD GIVE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS. WITH RESPECT TO DAHOMEY AND NIGER, THIS HE SAID WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION AND, OF COURSE, THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF THE COUP D'ETAT IN NIGER. HE WENT ON TO SAY THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO SHIPMENTS FROM DAKAR AND ABIDJAN BECAUSE THE GOM HAD WORKED OUT LONG-STANDING ARRANGEMENTS WITH SENEGAL AND COTE D'IVOIRE, BUT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT WITH RESPECT TO DAHOMEY AND NIGER WITH WHICH COUNTRIES, HE SAID, MALIAN RELATIONS HAD BEEN HOT AND COLD. HE REITERATED THAT CONVOYS USING THIS ROUTE WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN FUEL, SINCE HIS SUPPLY COULD ONLY MEET INTERNAL NEEDS.

10. WITH RESPECT TO MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT ON THE ANSONGA-GAO ROAD, DOUKARA SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS THERE SINCE IT HAD ALL BEEN MOVED TO THE DOUMENTZA AREA IN CONNECTION WITH AN R&R PROJECT TO REPAIR STRETCHES OF MOPTI-GAO ROUTE (BAMAKO 0900, PARA 4). HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD ENQUIRE AND LET ME KNOW THE STATUS OF THAT EQUIPMENT.

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION OF POSSIBILITY LEASING ADDITIONAL ALL-SURFACE TRUCKS, DOUKARA SAID THERE WERE NONE AVAILABLE IN MALI, THAT ALL SUCH TRUCKS BELONG TO THE ARMY.

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12. I ASKED DOUKARA IF HE NEEDED TO LEASE ADDITIONAL TRUCKS TO MOVE COMMODITIES FROM PORTS--I.E. ABIDJAN OR COTONOU. HE REPLIED THAT TRANSPORT FROM THE COAST WAS NOT A PROBLEM SINCE THE FREIGHT FORWARDERS HAD PLENTY OF TRANSPORT. HE SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON, HE HAD THOUGHT THAN AN AIRLIFT COULD BE AVOIDED IF THE 36 DESOTOS COULD AUGMENT THIS TRUCK  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRUCKS, DISASTER RELIEF, AFDROUGHTS, DROUGHTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BAMAKO00993  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740109-0659, D740096-0493  
**From:** BAMAKO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740419/aaaaaqnt.tel  
**Line Count:** 204  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STTTE 070797; STATE 074267  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 01 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS IN MALI  
**TAGS:** SWEL, EAID, ML  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005